

*Green Buildings in Alexandria: Policy Recommendations*  
*Appendix #8*

## **ENERGY STAR and The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC)**

### **What is ENERGY STAR? What Building Elements does it address?**

Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR are the top performers for energy efficiency nationwide and use about 35 percent less energy than average buildings. It was developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency which provides strategies, tools, professional assistance, and recognition opportunities to help buildings and plants improve energy efficiency. More than 3,200 buildings in all 50 states representing almost 575 million square feet have earned the ENERGY STAR label. Source: <http://www.energystar.gov/> (See Page 12 of the City of Alexandria Green Building White Paper, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for further details and Appendix 4 of this report for details of what building elements are addressed in ENERGY STAR).

### **The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and how it is amended?**

The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) is a state regulation promulgated by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development, a Governor-appointed board, for the purpose of establishing minimum regulations to govern the construction and maintenance of buildings and structures. The provisions of the USBC are based on nationally recognized model building and fire codes published by the International Code Council, Inc. The model codes are made part of the USBC through a regulatory process known as incorporation by reference. The USBC also contains administrative provisions governing the use of the model codes and establishing requirements for the enforcement of the code by the local building departments and other code enforcement agencies. In keeping with the designations of the USBC used previously, since the 2003 editions of the International Codes are incorporated by reference into this version of the USBC, it is known as the 2003 edition of the USBC.

Source:

[http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/PDFs/Virginia\\_Construction\\_Code\\_USBCPart\\_I.pdf](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/StateBuildingCodesandRegulations/PDFs/Virginia_Construction_Code_USBCPart_I.pdf)

The International Code Council is currently developing ICC 700, “The National Green Building Standard” (NAHBSv2) working with the National Association of Home Builders. This code is referenced as NAHBSv2 in point 12 above.

Source: <http://www.iccsafe.org/dyn/prod/9551S08.html>

The 2009/2010 ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE has been set with the deadline for receipt of applications for Code Committees set for January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. Source:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/2009-10cycle/CD-Schedule.pdf>

The International Code Council Board at its July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting approved the creation of a Sustainable Building Technology Committee (SBTC) to support its many ongoing efforts in green, sustainable and safe construction. The SBTC will provide an open forum for discussion of sustainability and ensure that Code Council members and stakeholders have a key voice in the critical debate. The SBTC will be charged with:

- Developing proposed code changes and analysis/response of related changes proposed for the Code Council family of codes and standards,
- Participating in the development of Council guidelines to assist members and jurisdictional authorities in implementing sustainable construction practices in their communities,
- Providing input on related Council programs such as green training and a green certification program for First Preventers, code officials who ensure buildings are safe and energy efficient, and,
- Serving in an advisory role to the Council's Board of Directors regarding the development of new International Codes or Standards in support of sustainable construction practices.

Source: <http://www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2008/0724green.html>

The International Code Council also provides training programs:



Source: <http://www.iccsafe.org/training/>